

For Immediate Release

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Leslie Mattson-Emerson Selected As Executive Director For The Grand Teton National Park Foundation

G.T. Halpin, Chair of the Board of the Grand Teton National Park Foundation announced today that Leslie Mattson-Emerson will lead the organization. Mattson-Emerson previously served as Executive Director of the Jackson Hole Land Trust. During her twelve-year tenure at the Land Trust, Mattson-Emerson oversaw the successful Campaign for Our Valley, which raised over \$26.5 million for private land protection in Jackson Hole. In addition to fundraising Mattson-Emerson oversaw the protection of nearly 10,000 acres of private land including several public access projects.

Mr. Halpin said, "Leslie brings a wealth of experience, a proven track record and a profound commitment to the natural resources of the area. We are all delighted to have her on board."

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent, Mary Gibson Scott commented that she is very pleased about Mattson-Emerson's selection. "The park staff and I are so excited to have such an outstanding person stepping into this position. Having Leslie as the executive director of the Grand Teton National Park Foundation is a dream come true."



The Grand Teton National Park Foundation was founded in 1997 to raise funds to support resource protection and visitor services in Grand Teton National Park. A private, nonprofit organization directed by a 29 member Board, the foundation has 600 members and a variety of business partners. Past projects include raising funds to preserve historic sites such as Mormon Row and Menors Ferry. The Foundation has also funded studies of wolverines, lynx and black bears and their activity in the Park.

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The Foundation is currently working on an innovative public-private partnership with the National Park Service to design, build and finance a modern and more adequately sized visitor center at Moose, Wyoming. This new facility will replace the very small outdated visitor center and will serve as the southern gateway to the Grand Teton – Yellowstone National Park area. It will provide an extraordinary educational and interpretive experience to the millions of people who visit every year. It will be the only visitor center in the region that will offer dramatic visual information on the natural resources in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and will provide travel information and orientation to areas and communities outside the park.

To learn more about the Grand Teton National Park Foundation contact Mattson-Emerson at 307-732-0629.